

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Miami Art Museum

MIAMI ART MUSEUM HOLDS ANNUAL BALL KICKOFF

MAM held its annual Ball kickoff party on May 18, 2005 in the spectacular home of Ambassador **Paul Cejas and his wife Trudy**. The evening served to kick off the fundraising drive for MAM's annual **Museum Ball** which will be held on December 3, 2005. Chairman of MAM's Board of Trustees, **Aaron Podhurst** announced that this year, the Ball will be even more glamorous and anticipated than ever. In December, the MAM Ball will be held for the first time under a big tent in MAM's future home at Bicentennial Park.

During the last 20 years MAM's annual Ball, the museum's main fundraiser, has become one of the most anticipated annual events of the Miami social calendar. Held traditionally during the first week of December, it now crowns a week of art-related events attended by international guests drawn to Miami for Art Basel.

At the kickoff event, Podhurst introduced the 2005 Ball Chairs, all respected community leaders and frequent contributors to the arts including MAM's permanent collection, **Marijean & Rafael Miyar, Beverly & Bill Parker, and Terry & Rob Schechter**.

Among the more than 100 guests in attendance at the Ball kickoff was **Mireille Chancy-Gonzalez**, the 2005 Chair of the Ball's Silent Auction which annually attracts an enticing list of contributions including cruises, art vacations, jewelry and gifts for the home.

Other guests graciously welcomed to their home by Paul and Trudy Cejas were MAM Board Co-presidents Nedra Oren and Rose Ellen Meyerhoff Greene and their husbands Mark and Gerald, Patricia Papper, Kirk Landon and Pamela Garrison, Aaron Fleischman and Lin Loughheed, Evan and Stefanie Reed, Dora Valdes-Fauli, Susie and Walid Wahab, Lynn Wolfson and MAM Director Suzanne Delehanty, among others.

Last year's MAM Ball was the most successful to date, raising nearly \$700,000 for programs and exhibitions. Miami Art Museum patrons who attend and support the Ball are a diverse reflection of Miami's demographic profile including core figures in the business, civic and cultural communities.

At Bicentennial Park, the 2005 Ball will be an evening of MAM under the stars, reflecting the landscape and beauty of our fabulous city and looking ahead to **Museum Park**, Miami's envisioned transformation of Bicentennial Park into a site that will house the new MAM facility and sculpture garden as well as a new Miami Museum of Science and Planetarium and a great public park for all visitors to enjoy. Ambassador Paul Cejas along with Dr. Phillip Frost and Jorge Perez, Jr., form MAM's capital campaign leadership for Museum Park.

MAM depends on private donations to help fulfill its role as a civic and cultural institution. Since its inception, MAM has worked closely with the community to develop and carry out the largest museum arts education program in Miami-Dade County, building a permanent collection dedicated to international art and presenting one of the most ambitious exhibition programs in the nation.

2005 MAM Ball Facts:

Date: Saturday, December 3, 2005
Time: 7:00 pm until 1:00 am
Place: Bicentennial Park, 1075 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami
Attendees: 800 of Miami's cultural, business and government leaders
Ticket Costs: \$600 & \$1,000 per person, \$6,000 to \$25,000 for tables

To purchase tickets for the Ball contact Debra Chase at 305.663.5307.

Miami Art Museum receives both private and public funding. More than 50 percent of its annual support comes from corporations, individuals, foundations and MAM members. MAM is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts; with the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners.